

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 25, 2006, has been received and reviewed. Claims 1 through 9, and 12 through 19 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1 through 9, and 12 through 19 stand rejected. Applicant has amended no claims, and respectfully request reconsideration of the application as presented herein.

Double Patenting Rejection Based on U.S. Patent No. 6,987,545

Claims 1 through 9, and 12 through 19 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1 through 16, 18 and 19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,987,545. In order to avoid further expenses and time delay, Applicant elects to expedite the prosecution of the present application by filing a terminal disclaimer to obviate the double patenting rejections in compliance with 37 CFR §1.321 (b) and (c). Applicant's filing of the terminal disclaimer should not be construed as acquiescence in the Examiner's double patenting or obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Attached are the terminal disclaimer and accompanying fee.

CONCLUSION

Claims 1 through 9 and 12 through 19 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and an early notice thereof is respectfully solicited. Should the Examiner determine that additional issues remain which might be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: December 7, 2006
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